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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Aerial and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

September 7, 1920.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of September 5 contains the following information relative to extra staple cotton:

More interest in new crop cotton prices was reported during the past week from among the mill men, but there was almost no buying, and brokers are disposed to attribute the inquiry for prices to a desire on the part of the manufacturers to obtain a basis on which to figure in making up prices for cloth and yarn.

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* * There were a number of offerings of the longer staple lengths, but there is not a great deal of interest in such cotton at this time. Spot prices, as a rule, were somewhat weaker than a week ago, the decline in some cases being as much as several cents.

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In the extra staple lengths, prices vary as much as ten to fifteen cents a pound. Some of the shippers are inclined to force the market to some extent, while others are content to let matters work themselves out. * *

It is idle to talk of prices for special varieties of long staple cotton such as Sea Island and Peruvian. It is impossible today, according to many of the brokers dealing in such cotton, to set a rational price. There is no demand whatever at present for such cotton; there are fairly good sized offerings that are seeking a bid, but the last sale prices are so far out of line with present asking prices of Peeler staples that they appear foolish. It is said that a considerable quantity of both Sea Island and Peruvian that was bought last spring against tire yarn orders that have since been cancelled, is now pressing for sale, but it has been impossible as yet to establish a price basis.

Egyptians are very slightly higher than they were a week ago, due to a rise in the Alexandria future market. Owing to the pressure of old crop offerings from mills that find themselves long on Egyptians as a result of tire yarn cancellations, it is possible to buy old crop uppers on the spot at a lower price than is asked for new crop uppers. Medium grade spots are quoted variously from 55-1/2 to 57 cents, while new crop uppers of medium grade such as is commonly used in tire yarn work can be had at 56-1/2 cents, with some asking as high as 67-1/2 cents. Medium grade

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... relative to extra staple cotton: continued:

... equivalent to No. 48 C.C.C. classification, is quoted as low as 83-1/2 cents for shipment from either Liverpool or Alexandria, but some selling houses are asking as high as 99 cents to 104 for new crop Sak of medium grade.

Alexandria future market quotations, according to the latest cable advices on Friday, were 94 tallaris for November and 61 tallaris for December, the former indicating the Sak contracts and the latter month the upper contracts.

The market for American Egyptian cotton is very much upset and is unquotable as to prices. Though no very definite information is available, rumors from usually well informed sources indicate that the abandonment of long staple cotton for use in tire yarns, which has recently been determined upon by most of the large tire companies, has resulted in knocking the props from under the Pima market. A number of tire companies are reported to have already contracted directly with growers for a large volume of Pima cotton. Some of the contracts guarantee a minimum price of 60 or 65 cents, and as much more as the current market level for this kind of cotton warrants at the time of shipment. Other contracts, however, call for the fixing of the price at the time of shipment without any minimum guarantee. It is reported that considerable money has already been advanced to growers by the tire companies on the basis of these contracts of one kind or another, but that further advances to growers have been stopped by reason of stringent credit encountered by the tire companies.

Although there is no official confirmation for it just at present, it is reported that some of the largest of the tire companies are now trying to dispose of the cotton they have thus contracted to buy and are offering new crop Pima at almost any price that it will bring.

With the tire yarn field eliminated, however, the consumers of such cotton are reduced to very narrow limits, including perhaps thread yarn makers, manufacturers of very fine insulating yarns, and spinners of fine yarns of which high breaking strength is required, such as for use in lace and similar work.

Up to the present there has been so little demand for Pima outside the tire trade, that no outlet for the new crop contracts held by the tire companies has been found at any price. The spinners of ordinary fine combed yarns are not anxious to make offers for the cotton no matter how cheap it might look, because they are unfamiliar with it.

In an effort to create a new outlet for this variety of cotton, mill men in this and other textile cities during the past two weeks have been asked to take trial lots of

Information relative to extra staple cotton:continued:

The cotton on consignment for the purpose of testing it out in the general run of fine yarn work.

What will be the ultimate outcome of the slump in Pima is not apparent at present, but it might happen that the price would be driven so low that it might prove advantageous once more to use it in tire yarn work where it gives at least as good satisfaction as does the shorter cotton.

Price quotations on new crop extra staples strict middling in grade and classed as to staple on a high standard of stapling are given herewith, but are nominal only, as there has been practically no dealing this week:

Inch and an eighth, 50 to 55 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 60 to 65 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 65 to 75 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 70 to 82 cents.

Visible Supply of Cotton

Stock in Alexandria, Egypt, September 3, was as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
73,000 bales	99,000 bales	185,000 bales

Prices of Good Sakel, Egyptian, Liverpool, September 3, were as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
69.50d	32.50d	33.92d

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah
Market for the week ending Friday, September 3
28.50 to 31.00

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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Alkali and Drought
Assistant Plant
Investigations

September 14, 1920.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of September 12 contains the following information relative to extra staple cotton:

Business in the extra staple cotton market here has been dull during the past week, although the increased interest in prices shown in some quarters has encouraged some of the brokers to look for a resumption of buying on a moderate scale in the near future.

There is no doubt but that the southern shippers, generally, are very anxious to sell new crop cotton. Selling pressure is especially strong from Texas, where the crop in the middle and southern portions of the state is already beginning to move. It must be admitted, however, that certain quarters report a strengthening of the buying basis in Texas amounting to 100 to 150 points during the latter part of the week, although these reports are denied in other quarters. Likewise there are some of the staple cotton shippers who were anxious a week or two ago to sell extra staple lengths out of the new crop but are not now pressing their offerings of this character, although still willing to sell in limited volume if they are offered the business.

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There has been some dealing in new crop longer stapled cotton but this has been confined to a very few scattered customers and has been at very low prices, as for example, 60 cents for a very full type of three sixteenths in strict middling.

Egyptians are offered approximately three cents cheaper than they were last week, although the price of uppers has stiffened slightly toward the last of the week as compared with its level early in the week. * * Medium grade Sakellaridis, such as is commonly used in this market in tire yarns, etc., is quoted at 80-1/2 cents for fall shipment from Egypt or Liverpool, while uppers of medium grade are offered at 53-1/2 cents. There was some interest reported in certain quarters on the latter.

There is absolutely no business in Peruvians, and there were not even any prices available here this week. There was a slight inquiry for Sea Islands several days

Information relative to extra staple cotton continued:

ago, but this market is also very slow. Nominal price levels for average extra choice are in the neighborhood of 80 to 90 cents.

In some quarters, there is a disposition to minimize the situation in the Pima cotton market and to regard as exaggerated the reports of a week ago to the effect that the tire companies were getting out from under their Pima cotton contracts. It is certain, however, that large quantities of new crop Pima are being offered in this market at greatly reduced prices. It is possible to buy No. 1 and 2 grades carrying full inch and five-eighths staple for 75 cents a pound, although a few months ago this kind of cotton actually sold for as high as \$1.30 a pound. No. 3 grade was available in inch and five-eighths staple for 70 to 73 cents a pound. Firm offers at even lower levels are being sought.

Nominal prices on extra staple cotton strict middling in grade and classed as to staple on a very high standard of stapling are quoted herewith, being as close as it is possible to get to the average prevailing market quotations:

Inch and an eighth, 55 to 60 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 60 to 65 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 65 to 72 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 70 to 80 cents.

Visible Supply of Cotton

Stock in Alexandria, Egypt, September 10, was as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
68,700 bales	94,000 bales	185,000 bales

Prices of Good Sakel, Egyptian, Liverpool, September 10, were as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
68.00d	32.50d	33.92d

The Textile World Journal of September 4 contains the following item under the heading - "To Sell Western Cotton":

The West Coast Cotton Co. has opened offices at 242 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, for the sale of the long staple cotton grown in Arizona and California. This cotton it will be recalled has been noted for the high character of staple and color, being used chiefly by spinners of tire fabric yarns, although a number of spinners have spun yarns out of this cotton for use in dress fabrics with gratifying success. This cotton is grown chiefly in the Salt River Valley, Arizona and in the San Joaquin Valley, Coachella Valley, and in the Imperial Valley in California. The West Coast Cotton Co.'s connection with the growers is such as to permit them to give the utmost attention to the requirements of users of long staple cotton inasmuch as they have factors in the various fields. Their western offices are at Bakersfield, California, with Chas. D. Magee, Jr., in charge. The Philadelphia office is in charge of Theo. J. Bowes, formerly of John S. Bowes, Philadelphia.

Liverpool Daily Cotton Reports

The Liverpool quotations for Sakellaridis Egyptian cotton (August 20) were as follows (pence):

		Spot Trading Value
Good	71.00
Fine	73.00
Extra fine	77.00

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah
Market for the week ending Friday, September 10

30.00 to 31.25

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Assistant Plant
Investigations

September 21, 1920.



EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

Runored Substitution of Short Staple for Long
Staple Cotton in Tire Fabrics.

Statements have appeared in recent issues of the News Letter, quoted from the New Bedford Standard, which indicate that a concerted effort may be under way to "bear" the market for long staple cotton in general and for Pima cotton in particular. It was thought advisable that readers of the News Letter should be informed that such statements have been published in newspapers having a wide circulation among cotton manufacturers and buyers. Comment was withheld in the absence of authoritative information as to the source and purpose of these reports. The following statement, published in the New Bedford Standard of September 19, is of interest in this connection:

"That long staple cotton is necessary in the manufacture of the highest grade automobile tires, and that it cannot be replaced by short stapled cotton without injury to the quality of the product is the statement made by officials of three of the largest tire manufacturing concerns in the United States in commenting on a recent article appearing in these columns and predicting the universal substitution of short staple cotton for long staple in the tire trade.

"The statement, which comes from officials of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and the Fisk Rubber Company, is as follows:

'On account of the qualities which are necessary in the production of guaranteed tires having maximum mileage, it has been found absolutely necessary to use the best grades of cotton of those varieties having the longest length of fibre. For this reason the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, the Fisk Rubber Company and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company take exception to the statement that the future would see all high grade cord and fabric tires made from inch and a sixteenth to inch and an eighth cotton.

'It is a fact, however, that a large majority of cheap unguaranteed tires are being manufactured from short staple cotton. Since the fabric in the tire represents

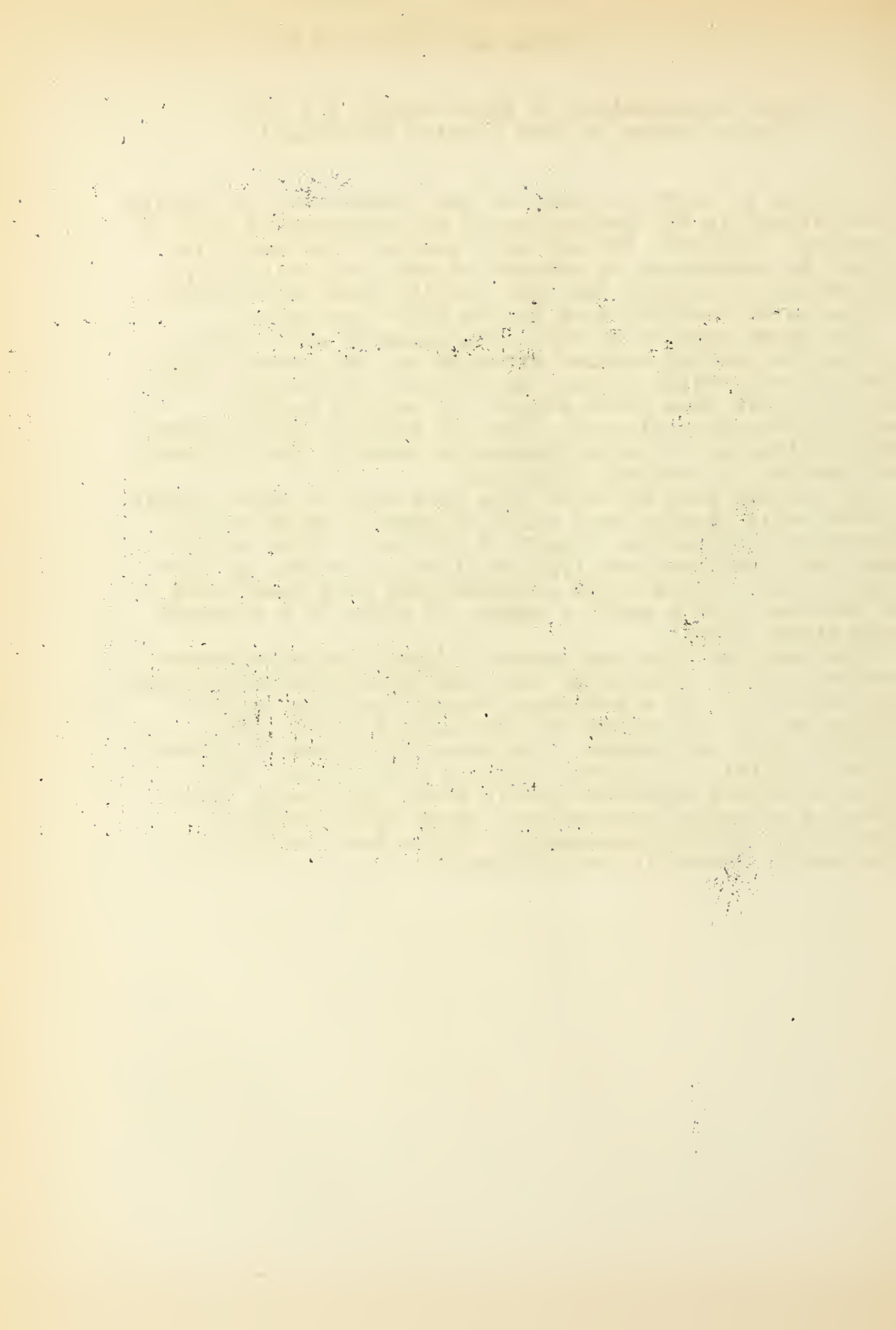
Armored Substitution of Short Staple for Long
Staple Cotton in Tire Fabrics (Continued)

forty-five to fifty per cent of the total cost, the saving accomplished in the production of an unguaranteed tire is apparent. However, the mileage obtained from such tire cannot be guaranteed on account of the fact that it is impossible to procure the same quality from short staple cotton as is possible from longer fibre varieties.

The above well known tire manufacturers state that minimum weight and maximum strength are the prime requisites in automobile tires. Long staple cotton will give stronger yarn than short staple, as well as produce smoother and more flexible yarn and fabric. Flexibility and smoothness are prime factors in reducing the tendency to heat due to internal friction.

To get the same strength in a tire made of short staple cotton would require more plies of fabric, which would naturally increase the weight of the tire. This would make the tire less resilient or elastic, and the greater body of the carcass would generate more heat than would be the case with a smaller number of plies of a stronger long staple fabric.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the Fisk Rubber Company, and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company believe that there will be a continued demand for long stapled cotton in the production of high quality tires, and, further, that the general depression in the staple market is due entirely to general business conditions. The three companies mentioned herein state positively that there is no change contemplated which will interfere materially with the consumption of the best quality of long staple cotton in their tires."



The New Bedford Sunday Standard of September 19 contains the following statement relative to extra staple cotton:

There has been very little buying in the extra staple cotton market here during the past week although brokers report a wider interest among mill men in cotton quotations. Attempts, however, to convert this interest into actual business resulted only in still further lowering the price ideas which mill treasurers had without developing any real sales in volume.

Prices have been soft. Shippers' quotations, as a rule, were more or less nominal and nearly always bore an invitation for firm offers at any level within five or six hundred points. Mills were almost invariably averse to naming any firm offers and the market stands thus deadlocked. The few sales that have taken place have usually been in very small lots at very close prices and have been very much in the nature of feelers, put out to test the market either by buyers or sellers.

* * *

Egyptians displayed the same weakness as did American cotton, and medium grade uppers of a type generally used in tire yarns and other regular work of a New Bedford character was offered at 47-1/8 to 50 cents for shipment from abroad, although 70 cents was asked for spots. Medium grade Sakellaridis of the type usually bought here for the class of work turned out by New Bedford mills was offered around 79 to 80 cents for shipment from Alexandria. * *

Sea Islands are unquotable this week for the reason that the prices have not yet become readjusted to the new basis for staples. Peruvian mitafifi, however, is offered out of the new crop for from 50 to 55 cents for medium grades.

Pima cotton is still pressing for sale in this market. Some brokerage firms are offering it in goodly volume at 70 cents to 72 cents for No. 2 and No. 3 grades, inch and five eighths staple or better, and are frankly seeking firm bids for it, even at five to ten cents under these figures. Some of the mill men who have been approached on this cotton have shown some interest in it, even though they have had but little experience in using it, but have been rather blunt in their preference for Sak at the same price, as they have had more experience with the Egyptian cotton. They admit, however, that a difference of several cents a pound in price might easily overcome their preference for Sak, but have no orders at

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Statement relative to extra staple cotton continued:

the present time on which either Sak or Pima might be applied, and so are not prepared at the moment to make a definite offer.

Prices for new crop American staples strict middling, white in grade and color and classed as to staple on a very high standard of stapling, are given herewith, being a fair average of the figures quoted by a large number of local brokerage houses. As stated previously, however, all new crop cotton is more or less nominal and subject to material shading on firm bids:

Inch and an eighth, 45 to 55 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 58 to 62 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 65 to 70 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 68 to 72 cents.

Visible Supply of Cotton

(from New York Journal of Commerce, Sept. 20, 1920)

Stock in Alexandria, Egypt, September 17, was as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
71,000 bales	83,000 bales	175,000 bales

Specifications for Airship Fabrics

It is stated in a recent number of the Textile World Record (vol. 58, No. 11, p. 35, 1920) that specifications for fabric for dirigibles as formulated by the Manufacturers Aircraft Association specify that the raw cotton shall be Sea Island, Egyptian or Arizona-Egyptian.

Equivalent Grades of Pima and Sakellaridis Cottons

The following statement in regard to grades of Sakellaridis Egyptian cotton which most nearly corresponds with the five grades of Pima is furnished by Mr. D. S. Murph, Specialist in Charge of the Division of Cotton Marketing, Bureau of Markets, U. S. Department of Agriculture:

AMERICAN ARIZONA EGYPTIAN PIMA	SAKELLARIDIS EGYPTIAN
No. 1 or FANCY	*EXTRA EXTRA FINE
No. 2 or EXTRA	*FINE FULLY GOOD
No. 3 or CHOICE	*GOOD FULLY GOOD FAIR TO GOOD
No. 4 or STANDARD	*Basis* FULLY GOOD FAIR GOOD FAIR TO FULLY GOOD FAIR
No. 5 or MEDIUM	*GOOD FAIR FULLY FAIR TO GOOD FAIR *FULLY FAIR FAIR *MIDDLING FAIR

* The asterisk indicates full grades

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah
Market for the week ending Friday, September 17
30.00 to 31.00

P6962
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

September 28, 1920.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of September 26 contains the following statement relative to extra staple cotton:

The sudden drop in the prices of extra staple cotton has left the local market up in the air, to a certain degree, and without any definite trading basis. No one knows or pretends to know just what staples are worth to-day and some shippers are apparently so anxious to sell that they are willing to take almost any price that is offered. This, of course, does not apply to the large majority of firms, although even the most conservative admit that their prices at present are merely nominal and that they are open to negotiation on any firm bid that is anywhere near their quotations.

There is a very general interest among mill men in the quotations on new crop, but very few are ready to buy as yet, and those few who were nearly ready to do so early in the week have changed their minds since the collapse of cotton values and are waiting to see how low the market will go. The fact that they are taking no new orders in volume as yet and that they are running their mills at not much more than half of their capacity makes it unnecessary for them to secure additional cotton supplies in a hurry, in spite of the unprecedentedly low condition of their raw material stocks on hand.

The price of Egyptian uppers, which is leading the decline, is being watched closely, and so long as it ranges five to ten cents under the quotations for new crop American, mill men feel that they are justified in expecting still further recessions in the prices for Peelers. Some brokers were quoting as low as 42 to 44 cents for full inch and an eighth and as low as 50 cents for full quarters, strict middling, but medium grade Egyptian uppers were obtainable considerably cheaper than the first named figure.

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Egyptian uppers of medium grade suitable for use in tire yarn is offered around 40 to 44 cents for shipment from Alexandria, while medium grade Sakellaridis is quoted as low as 67-1/4 cents and as high as 73-1/2 cents.

Statement relative to extra staple cotton continued:

While these last named prices are very much lower than the levels which prevailed for many months, there is little buying of Sak as the mill men expect it to decline still further in view of the wide spread between the price of Sak and the price of uppers. * *

* * Sea Island was quoted a few days ago at a dollar a pound, but the price was regarded almost everywhere as ridiculous in view of the market level on other varieties.

Pima of No. 2 and No. 3 grade can be bought in considerable quantities at 60 to 65 cents for inch and five eighths staple. At this price it figures very much lower than Sakellaridis or Sea Island and scarcely higher than inch and five-sixteenths peelers, though there has not been very much demand for it stirred up as yet.

Prices for extra staples strict middling white in grade and classed as to staple on a very high standard of stapling are quoted as follows, but it should be understood that the figures are nominal and might be shaded on firm bids:-

Inch and an eighth, 44 to 48 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 48 to 52 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 52 to 56 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 56 to 60 cents.

Egyptian Cotton Imports

The Bureau of the Census reports imports from Egypt in equivalent 500-pound bales during the twelve months ending July 31, 1920, together with the corresponding period (as well as for the month of August) of the preceding year as follows:

August		: 12 mos. ending July 31	
1920	1919	:	1920 1919
12,876	11,280	:	485,003 100,006

Visible Supply of Cotton

(from New York Journal of Commerce, Sept. 27, 1920)

Stock in Alexandria, Egypt, September 24, was as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
78,000 bales	87,000 bales	168,000 bales

Prices of Good Sakel, Egyptian, Liverpool, September 24, were as follows:

<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>
(pence) ₁	(pence)	(pence)
59.00	32.50	33.13

¹ This corresponds to a price at Liverpool of 85 cents, demand sterling having closed at \$3.48 at New York on September 24, 1920. The "good" grade of Sakel corresponds to Number 3 or choice Pima.

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, September 24

27.50 to
30.50

